



## State of Maryland

### Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/Planning Council

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor –, Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, DHMH

## MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HYGIENE/ PL 102-321 PLANNING COUNCIL

### Minutes

April 19, 2011

**Maryland Advisory Council Members:** M. Sue Diehl, Chair; Mike Finkle, Livia Pazourek, Robert M. Pender, Vice-Chair; Charles Reifsnider, John Scharf, Anita Solomon

**Maryland Advisory Council Members Absent:** Richard Blair, Jaimi L. Brown, Michele Forzley, Joshana Goga, Edwin C. Oliver, Anthony Swetz, Jr., Garth Thompson, Robert Turner, Sherrie Wilcox

Individuals highlighted as such are resigned members who have not yet been replaced.

**PL 102-321 Council Members Present:** Carol Allenza, Peter Cohen, Lesa Diehl, Vira Froehlinger, Diane Herr, Cindy Kauffman, Sharon Lipford, Coordinator; Dan Martin, Cynthia Petion, Sarah Rhine, Kathleen Ward

**PL 102-321 Council Members Absent:** Lynn Albizo, Terry Bohrer, Tracee Bryant, Sarah Burns, Coordinator; Herb Cromwell, Lee Crump, Catherine Drake, Kate Farinholt, A. Scott Gibson, Gerri Gray, Victor Henderson, Julie Jerscheid, Michael Lang, George Lipman, William Manahan, Linda Raines, Sheryl Sparer, Jane Walker, Della Williams

**MHA Staff Present:** Lissa Abrams, Robin Poponne, Tom Merrick, Carole Frank, Iris Reeves, Clarissa Netter

**Guests and Others:** Joanne Meekins, Consumer Quality Team of MD; Dennis McDowell, Chicquita Crawford, Mark Kim, Msafiri Makembe, Nevett Steele, Quanetta Holt, Jackie Pettis, ValueOptions

---

c/o Mental Hygiene Administration

Spring Grove Hospital Center – 55 Wade Avenue – Dix Building – Catonsville MD 21228 – (410) 402-8473

TDD for Disabled – Maryland Relay Service (800) 735-2258

**Healthy People in Healthy Communities**

**INTRODUCTIONS/ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Council, Sue Diehl. To acknowledge the passing of former Governor and Baltimore City Mayor, William Schafer, Ms. Diehl asked attendees to join in a moment of silence. The meeting continued with an introduction of all present, followed by the motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2011. Minutes were approved. Please note that approved minutes will be posted on MHA's Web site, [www.dhmh.state.md.us/mha](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/mha). The Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene's link is listed under "Resources".

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Mike Finkle announced that On Our Own of Maryland's Annual Conference will be held on June 9 & 10, 2011 at the Rocky Gap Lodge, in Cumberland MD. This year's theme is titled "WOW 2011 – Wizards of Wellness: Finding Harmony, Health and Happiness". The keynoter speaker is LaVerne Miller, Esq. who is an attorney and consultant whose career has centered on mental health and social justice. The awards dinner will highlight recognition to Herb Cromwell, Linda Raines and Laura Cain. For more information, contact OOOMD, Inc. at 410-646-0262 (Baltimore area) or 1-800-704-0262. Email address is [oomd@earthlink.net](mailto:oomd@earthlink.net)
- Carole Frank shared information on the Mental Hygiene Administration's annual conference which is May 4, 2011 at Martin's West in Baltimore. The one day conference will highlight discussions on Health Care Reform and Mental Health in Maryland. This year's conference will offer three sessions of workshops throughout the day. Conference information is available on MHA's website, under "Training".
- Children's Mental Health Awareness Week is May 1-7, 2011. Carol Allenza of Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) announced various campaign events to promote the message "Children's Mental Health Matters!" including public service announcements, bus ads and posters. For more information, visit the campaign website at [www.childrensmentalhealthmatters.org](http://www.childrensmentalhealthmatters.org)
- Cynthia Petion announced proposed changes to the federal block grant. SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) proposes a unified block grant application for community mental health block grant and substance abuse and prevention treatment block grant for FY 2012 – 2013. The revised block grant application requires States to identify and analyze the strengths, needs and priorities of their behavioral health systems. Detailed information on proposed block grant changes may be viewed on SAMHSA's website: [www.SAMHSA.gov](http://www.SAMHSA.gov). MHA and ADAA will be meeting to discuss the unified application proposal for future submissions. Additionally, Ms. Petion announced that MHA will host its annual Stakeholders meeting on April 29, 2011 to update its FY 2012 State Mental Health Plan. The meeting will be held at the Temple Oheb Shalom from 9 – 2:30. As in the past, the meeting will include an overview of current initiatives and priority areas, as well as breakout groups to discuss State Plan goals and recommendations for strategies.
- NAMIWalk will be held at two locations. May 15 will be in Silver Spring and on May 21 at Rash Field/Inner Harbor. Please visit [www.NAMI.org](http://www.NAMI.org) for more information. Vira Froehlinger shared the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) press release announcing the launch of Maryland Mental Health Workforce skills training for working with children with mental health needs. The Maryland Mental Health Workforce is a collaboration between MSDE's Division of Special Education/Early Intervention

Services, the Mental Hygiene Administration and the University of Maryland's Child and Adolescent Innovations Institute. The training site is available at <http://mdvta.umaryland.edu>

### **THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Lissa Abrams, Deputy Director of MHA, delivered the following report on behalf of MHA Director, Brian Hepburn, M.D. Ms. Abrams thanked the Joint Council, the Mental Health Coalition and other mental health advocates for their past and current support and advocacy efforts, particularly during this session, that have resulted in community services funding and reduced proposed budget cuts. In summary, the following budgetary action for Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) included:

- FY 11 - \$10 million in state general funds to enhance rates for community mental health providers
- FY 12 budget- \$25 million in state general funds to address MHA's rolling deficit due to increased enrollment in Medicaid.

Ms. Abrams also briefed the Council on other issues, such as the status of telemedicine in Maryland. MHA has adopted regulations for telemedicine and has recently received approval for Medicaid reimbursement from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). At this time, MHA has determined that certain rural geographic areas are eligible to participate in telemedicine services. Also, MHA is proceeding with efforts to develop amendments to the Medicaid State Plan for PRP rate change, peer support, supported employment and crisis residential and mobile crisis mental health services. As a first approach to this process, MHA has convened several workgroups comprised of consumers, providers, and other stakeholder groups to examine each service. MHA has also been meeting with stakeholders and CBH providers on restructuring PRP rehabilitation rates and monthly case rates. Proposals/requests will be submitted to (CMS).

### **Joint Council Special Recognition:**

As announced at previous meetings, Ms. Abrams will be retiring from Mental Hygiene Administration after 30 + years of State service. As an extension of the Council's appreciation for her leadership and commitment to people with mental illness, Ms. Diehl presented Ms. Abrams with a lovely plant. She will be truly missed. MHA will host a retirement party for Ms. Abrams on April 27, 2011 at the Historic Oakland Mansion in Columbia, MD.

### **Maryland Parity Project Presentation – Adrienne Ellis:**

Adrienne Ellis, Director of Maryland Parity Project, Mental Health Association-Maryland (MHAMD), provided information on Federal Mental Health Parity. The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act aims to create equity in insurance coverage for mental health and addiction treatment. The Mental Health Association secured grant funding to create the Maryland Parity Project to:

- Educate consumers and providers to their new rights under the 2008 law; and
- Offer case assistance to consumers who have been inappropriately denied treatment.

The law does not require that insurers offer mental health or addiction coverage, but instead requires that if an insurer offers any mental health or addiction benefits, they must be on par with medical/surgical benefits. Ms. Ellis provided a thorough overview on benefit classifications,

MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HYGIENE/

PL 102-321 COUNCIL

Minutes of April 19, 2011

Page 4

regulations and other requirements. For questions about your mental health insurance benefits call 410-235-1178 or visit the website at [www.MarylandParity.org](http://www.MarylandParity.org) .

**Legislative Update:**

A brief legislative review was provided. Dan Martin from MHAMD provided highlights of their “2011 Preliminary End of Session Wrap-Up” which covered the budget success, achievement with the Alcohol tax, and a list of legislation related to children and adults, taskforces and workgroups. Final reports were also available from Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland (CBH). Please visit CBH’s Web site, [www.mdcbh.org](http://www.mdcbh.org) for more information. Additional listings and information are available through NAMI’s Web site, [www.NAMI.org](http://www.NAMI.org) (click on advocacy and bills), and through the Mental Health Association of Maryland’s Web site, <http://www.mhamd.com> .

The meeting was adjourned.